

December 1, 2004

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your interest and involvement in planning for Ross Shelterhouse Improvements. We have completed planning and expect to begin construction of Ross Shelterhouse Improvements in the spring of 2005. Keep posted on what is happening at Ross Shelterhouse at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/rosspark.htm>

Ross Shelterhouse is a 1,080 square foot building that the community asked Parks to “rehabilitate and open.” Voters approved \$544,620 from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy to plan, design and construct improvements to Ross Shelterhouse as part of the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. Some improvements are needed to bring the Shelterhouse into compliance with City codes including seismic, Americans with Disabilities Act, fire safety, and utility upgrades.

The design for Ross Shelterhouse includes improved bathrooms, a covered exterior plaza, and a new community meeting area. If budget allows, the Shelterhouse will also have new entry stairs on its east and northwest corners, and Seattle Parks first green roof. We hope Ross Shelterhouse will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Overview of public meetings

Seattle Parks and Recreation held three public meetings at Ross Shelterhouse to gather community ideas and comments as a park design was developed. Complete meeting summaries are on the project website.

6/8/04 Kick-off meeting. The community asked that Parks

- reorient the bathrooms so they feel safe to park users, especially children
- consider covered exterior space as well as improving the meeting room
- create a “green” and sustainable design
- include art and history, especially the history of Ross as the site of a pioneer elementary school

9/28/04 The second meeting looked at alternative designs developed by Heliotrope Architects. The community preferred complete building reconstruction rather than reusing the existing structure.

Discussion focused on how shelterhouses can be used by the public, making the bathroom location safer, and sustainable design.

11/9/04 The community strongly supported the final design presented. The design includes a large community meeting space with natural lighting, a covered exterior space, bathrooms opening to the south, a green roof and other sustainable building elements. Construction will begin in 2005 and will impact neighborhood parking through the fall of 2005. Shelterhouse bathrooms will be closed during construction.

Other public outreach and meetings

- **Seattle Design Commission** Ross Shelterhouse concepts and design development were presented to the Seattle Design Commission on October 7 and November 18, 2004. Summaries of these meetings are available on the web at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/CityDesign/ProjectReview/SDC/>
- **Community Tour** On August 5, 2004 Parks staff, Heliotrope Architects and 10 community members toured three recently improved shelterhouses to see practical and innovative design ideas. Photos from the tour are at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/RossImprovements.pdf>
- **Friends of the Park meeting** Parks staff met with the staff of Pacific Crest School who are Park stewards.
- **Community contacts** Parks received over 80 contacts by email, mail and phone during the planning process.

Contact information

Cathy Tuttle worked with the community to develop the design plan for Ross Shelterhouse Improvements. Patrick Donahue will be the primary Ross Shelterhouse contact while the park is under construction. Kathie Huus is responsible for the staff that maintain and operate Ross Shelterhouse after it is built.

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